

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 20, 2019**

**2:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Mike Montello, Ron Volkert, and Tom Weinmeyer

Others Present: Craig Yehlik, Mike Darrow, and Lori Brinkman

Tom Weinmeyer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Mike Montello moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

Mike Montello moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of July 30, 2019, seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

### **Hands Free Ordinance**

Police Chief Craig Yehlik explained that the State of Minnesota recently passed a hands-free law. The City of Hudson also recently enacted a hands-free ordinance throughout their city. The City of Wausau has a hands-free ordinance as well. There is no hands-free law currently in the State of Wisconsin. Chief Yehlik inquired as to whether the City of New Richmond should consider a hands-free ordinance at this time. He provided copies of the Hudson and Wausau hands-free ordinances as examples. Discussion ensued. Enforcement could be challenging when the State has not yet passed a hands-free law. The City of New Richmond is concerned about the usage of cell phones while driving and would like to invite State Representative Rob Stafsholt and State Senator Patty Schachtner to an upcoming City Council meeting to encourage them to bring this issue to Madison.

Mike Montello moved to bring this conversation forth to the City Council for consideration, seconded by Tom Weinmeyer and carried.

### **Underage Consumption/Possession of Alcohol**

Chief Yehlik explained that the City of New Richmond has an underage consumption/possession ordinance (50-92(b)), in which the wording "fermented malt beverage" is not consistent with State Statute. He feels an update to the wording in the City's ordinance is warranted. Chief Yehlik's recommendation is to update the wording to read "alcohol beverages" to match State Statute 125.07(4)(b).

Mike Montello moved to approve the wording change in the City's underage consumption ordinance (50-92(b)) from "fermented malt beverage" to "alcohol beverages", seconded by Ron Volkert and carried.

### **Traffic Speed on N Knowles Avenue**

Tom Weinmeyer is concerned about the speed of traffic on North Knowles Avenue. Chief Yehlik explained that patrol units have had more of a presence in this area recently to help reduce speeds. He will also discuss with Jeremiah Wendt, Director of Public Works, the possibility of moving the traffic trailers around to other locations. The traffic trailers help in slowing traffic down. No formal action required.

### **Communication/Miscellaneous**

- Chief Yehlik mentioned that Bill Gray will be at the New Richmond High School on September 19 at 6:30 for a Living Well Together presentation. Bill and his daughter will

discuss resiliency, human trafficking, and being aware of one's surroundings. This is a free event and all are encouraged to attend including teenagers.

Ron Volkert moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Montello and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes by Lori Brinkman